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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FFP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PPTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: MAY 3, 2005 (1700 HOURS LOCAL) --
WEST BANK QUIET; PA ARRESTS THREE HAMAS MILITANTS IN GAZA
PREPARING QASSAM, RELEASES THEM AFTER CONFISCATING WEAPONS

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary. The West Bank was quiet May 2-3. Fatah will hold primary elections to determine PLC candidates on May 27 or June 1, according to PLC speaker Rawhi Fattuh. In Gaza, PA security forces arrested in Gaza City three Hamas members suspected of preparing to fire Qassam rockets. Their weapons and a rocket were confiscated, but the three were later released after Hamas protests and negotiations. Three mortar shells exploded overnight May 1-2 at Netzarim, according to the IDF, but no injuries resulted. End summary.

West Bank

[1](#)2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Arrests: Nil.

[1](#)3. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Fatah will hold primaries on either May 27 or June 1, according to PLC speaker Rawhi Fattuh.

-- PA Interior Minister Nasser Yusif warned Palestinian factions that attempting to force implementation of their political agenda with arms will not be tolerated, and PA security forces will impose law and order in all PA-controlled areas.

Gaza Strip

[1](#)4. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Arrests: PA security forces arrested in Gaza City three Hamas members suspected of preparing to fire Qassam rockets. Their weapons and a rocket were confiscated, but the three were later released after Hamas protests and negotiations.

-- Mortars/Rockets: Three mortar shells exploded overnight May 1-2 at Netzarim, according to the IDF, but no injuries resulted.

-- Shootings: According to the IDF, six shooting incidents occurred May 1, but no injuries resulted. Two incidents took place at Rafah Yam, just west of Rafah, one at Morag and two at Neve Dekalim.

-- Explosions: Nil.

[1](#)5. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

[1](#)6. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open May 2, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was closed May 1 for Palestinians, but open for internationals.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed May 1.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers May 2, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operating slowly May 2.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures May 2.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed May 2. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi May 2, except males aged 16-30.

17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to Israeli media, the government informed settler representatives on May 1 that it will agree to most of the settlers demands for disengagement in the Gaza Strip, collectively known as the "Nitzanim plan." The only demand denied was one to reopen the Evacuation Compensation Law and amend its clauses. Other requests to which the government has agreed include allowing the settlers to establish four new communities in the area of Nitzanim and permitting them to run an independent municipal entity to replace the Gaza Coast Regional Council.

-- According to Israeli media, a ministerial meeting between PM Sharon and six members of his cabinet on the future of Gush Katif settler homes ended on May 2, with a majority reportedly opposed to the demolition of the homes. The government will make its final decision during its next cabinet meeting the week of May 9, according to Israeli news sources